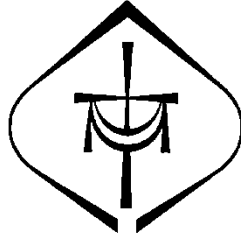




I'M GOOD
FRIDAY

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY



GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE
AT HOME WORSHIP
APRIL 10, 2020

Our service tonight is a Tenebrae Service. The word "Tenebrae" is Latin. It means "darkness" or "shadow." In this service, after each one of the Seven Words from the Cross is spoken, a candle will be extinguished. This reminds us of the gathering darkness during the crucifixion of Jesus. The small candle lit at the end of the service reminds us of the sure hope of the resurrection.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP IS PRINTED BELOW:

Pastor Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; Who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Savior, When in Dust to Thee*

1 Savior, when in dust to Thee
Low we bow the adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe
Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

2 By Thy helpless infant years,
By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress
In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;
Hear our penitential cry!

3 By thine hour of dire despair,
By thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!

4 By Thy deep expiring groan,
By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav'n restored,
Mighty, re-ascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

- ¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
 he shall be high and lifted up,
 and shall be exalted.
- ¹⁴ As many were astonished at you---
 his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
 and his form beyond that of the children of mankind---
- ¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations;
 kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
 and that which they have not heard they understand.
- ¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us?
 And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- ² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
 and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
 and no beauty that we should desire him.
- ³ He was despised and rejected by men;
 a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
 he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
 and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
 smitten by God, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions;
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

- and with his stripes we are healed.
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned---every one---to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
- 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
- 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
- 9 And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- 10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
- 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
- 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Lector This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 4:14 – 16; 5:7 – 9

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ...

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Lector This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS:

There are seven living sentences from the lips of a dying Man which are recorded in the Gospels. These are living words, because the man who uttered them in His dying hour arose again from the tomb on the third day! These are living words of the living Son of God! They have meaning for each of us.

THE FIRST WORD: Luke 23:32-34

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

HYMN 449 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (Stanzas 1 and 4)

1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss 'til now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

4 Be Thou my consolation
My shield when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws neigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.

THE SECOND WORD: Luke 23: 35-43

“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

HYMN 767 *Jesus, Remember Me*
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom,
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.

THE THIRD WORD: John 19:25–27

“Dear woman, here is your son. Here is your mother.”

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his own home.

HYMN 425 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

THE FOURTH WORD: Matthew 27:45–49
“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” – which means, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

One of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink.

But the rest said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This?

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
2. And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.
And when from death I’m free I’ll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

THE FIFTH WORD: John 19:28-29

“I am thirsty.”

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of a hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

HYMN

435 *Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain* (Stanzas 1 and 4)

Come to Calvary’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the Fall
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

They that drink shall live forever; ‘Tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

THE SIXTH WORD: John 19:30

“It is finished.”

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

HYMN

Christ the Life of All the Living

1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe;

who Thyself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe,
Through Thy sufferings, death and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God;
Thus did Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing. Thousand,
thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

THE SEVENTH WORD: Luke 23:44-49

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

HYMN

437 *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*

1. Alas! and did my Savior bleed And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?

2. Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!
3. Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died, For His own creature's sin.
4. Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my eyes to tears.
5. But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do.

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Elder Lord God, heavenly Father,

Congregation this day marks the anniversary of Your greatest gift to the world.

Elder Your love for the human race is beyond understanding.

Congregation We praise you for that love, which caused You to give up Your only-begotten Son unto death for sinful humanity.

Elder Cleansed of our sin and clothed in His righteousness, we now stand in Your presence.

Congregation We thank You for making us the beneficiaries of Your love in Christ.

Elder O Lord Jesus Christ, we will never know the full extent of Your suffering for us. Because You asked Your Father to forgive those who put You on the cross,

Congregation we know that our sins have also been forgiven.

Elder Because You promised the criminal who believed in You everlasting life,

Congregation we have assurance that, in spite of our sins, we too will have eternal life.

Elder As in the midst of Your suffering You had consideration for Your mother,

Congregation so we can be confident You will be with us to the end of our earthly life.

Elder Because You were forsaken by God the Father

Congregation we know that we will never be forsaken.

Elder Because You thirsted for us,

Congregation we now have the water of everlasting life.

Elder Because of Your declaration that the work of redemption was finished,

Congregation we no longer need to be doubtful about our salvation.

Elder Through Your yielding up of Your spirit to death,

Congregation we have life.

Elder O Holy Spirit, abide in our hearts.

Congregation Help us to believe that Christ died in our place. Help us to share to Good News of repentance, faith and forgiveness in Jesus' name. Your Word is

living, true, and sure. By Your Holy Spirit's power, help Your Word to bear fruit in our lives and community.

Pastor We pray for the communities in which we live and serve. We pray for all who serve on the front lines of caring for those infected by the Coronavirus. We pray for doctors, nurses, health care workers and first responders. We pray for those who are sick, and in need of care. We pray for those who experience isolation in these times of social distancing. We pray for our schoolteachers, students and families. We pray for those who work in the supermarkets and stores in our communities. We pray for those who deliver mail, packages and food. We pray for our leaders, our state, our nation, and our world. We pray that You would bless the people and our witness to them. Lord, in Your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Pastor So fill us with Your Holy Spirit that our lives will be a constant witness to the crucified Christ.

Congregation This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

Congregation Have mercy on us.

Pastor Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

Congregation, Have mercy on us.

Pastor Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

Congregation Grant us peace.

Pastor Christ crucified draw you to himself to find in him a sure ground of faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Were You There?*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the Tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the Tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they nailed him to the Tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?



What was Jesus thinking about as He hung on the cross on Good Friday?

The pain was so great, and it was so difficult to catch his breath, that it's amazing that Jesus could think about or say anything.

Yet on that cross, He prayed for forgiveness for those who would crucify him.

He promised a dying thief paradise. He put his mother into the care of his disciple John.

He cried out to his Father in loneliness.

He asked for a drink.

He said, "It is finished," and He commended himself to his father's care.

I wonder if he saw you and me, again, and our great need for forgiveness and peace with God.

He humbled himself even unto death, so that you and I can know life with God forever.